

# Candidates (Or Friends) Start Political Ball Rolling

The local political pot is beginning to boil, and if you want to get it on this spring, you have until midnight next Thursday, Feb. 18, to get your name on the dotted line. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett warned this week. Registration of voters for the coming municipal election must be completed by the 18th, Bartlett said. Those not registered by that date will be ineligible to vote for city councilmen, clerk, city treasurer, and on the proposed bond issues which will be on the city ballot.

A short flurry of activity in the City Clerk's office heralded the opening of nominations for city offices Friday morning. First in line to take out nominating papers was Mrs. Harriett Leech, city treasurer. Papers were issued also to Attorney A. H. Bartlett, who has indicated unofficially that he will be a candidate for the City Council; to Mrs. A. D. DiMayle, whose husband is reportedly interested in a council seat; and to F. W. Burk, of Seaside Heights, who will probably be a candidate for the council.

City Clerk Bartlett is finishing 34 years in that office and has not indicated whether he will be a candidate again for re-election.

"I'll have something to say about that in a few days," Bartlett said.

Seats on the council now held by Willys G. Blount and Harvey B. Spelman Jr., will be at stake in the April 13 city election. The other three councilmen, Mayor Mervin M. Schwab, Nick Drake, and Victor E. Benstead, have two more years to serve. Councilman Spelman says he is definitely out of the race, and Blount said he wouldn't have anything to say on the matter for "a week or 10 days." Closing date for filing nomination papers is noon, March 4. Absentee ballots for those registered voters who will be out of town on the date of the election may be obtained by applying in writing to the City Clerk at the Torrance City Hall between March 24 and April 8, Bartlett reports. These ballots must be returned by April 19 to be counted in the results.

# CITY CREWS BATTLE FLOOD WATER IN EFFORT TO SAVE HOMES, STORES

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

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Every Sunday and Thursday Home Delivered by Carrier 30 Cents Per Month (Average 9 Issues Per Month)

## TORRANCE HERALD

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Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

40th Year—No. 13

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1954

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

12 PAGES



**FRED BOREN**  
... New El Toga Leader

### Boren Installed El Toga Prexy

Fred Boren, secretary of the Torrance Lions Club, was installed president of the El Toga Shrine Club of Al Malakka Temple at an installation dinner held last night at the Western Club in Gardena.

Other new officers are Lew Daniels, first vice-president; Jack Smith, second vice-president; Charles P. McCann, was re-elected secretary; Ed Alken, treasurer; and Mickey Elissa, potentate's ambassador. Elissa is outgoing president.

Al Malakka Potentate William J. Vaughan was expected to attend the dinner. Dancing and entertainment followed the report.

### 'Fake Doctor' Robbery Gang Caught in L.A.

The Los Angeles bunko squad rounded up nine members of a "fake-doctor" robbery gang Friday, two of whom were probably responsible for a theft in Torrance two weeks ago.

Jack Nielson, 74, of 4171 W. 190th St., told police recently that two men had approached him in the yard of his home, identified themselves as doctors, and offered to give him a free check-up.

After an examination of his back, the pair departed and Nielson discovered that his wallet, containing \$400, had departed, too.

This same method of operation was ascribed to the nine men picked up in Los Angeles. Capt. Harry Didion, head of the police bunko squad, estimated that the gang had cleared about \$15,000 in the last six weeks in Los Angeles, Torrance, Glendale, Montebello, Alhambra and Pasadena by taking advantage of elderly men.

Didion said that the gang would usually pick on old men in their front yards, and preferred those on crutches or leaning on a cane. They would ask for the residence of a Mr. Phillips, whom they said they had been treating for arthritis. In the course of the conversation, they would ask the elderly man about his health, and offer him a free check-up.

Later, it would be discovered that the check-up was not a check-up and not free.

### Clerks Union, Employers Meet Again Tuesday

Representatives of Retail Clerks Local Union, Local 905, AFL, and the Harbor Area Employers Council have resumed negotiations on the 1954-55 mercantile contract, and in a joint statement issued after a meeting on Thursday, Ben Scott, acting secretary-treasurer of the Union, and Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Employers' Council, declared that good progress is being made toward reaching an agreement favorable to both parties.

The meeting Thursday was held in the office of the union, with Scott and Herschell Womack, international representative of the Clerks Union, representing the Union, and John Binkley, counsel for the Employers Council, acting as spokesman for the employers' negotiating committee present.

"Good labor-management relations will do much to increase the development and future prosperity of this area," the joint statement said.

Further meetings between the employers and the union are slated for Tuesday.

### Party Crasher Gets Choice-- Army or Jail

A Torrance youth who crashed a Redondo party Thursday night because of unrequited love, was given his choice of joining the Army or facing a possible 60 days in jail by a South Bay Superior Court Judge Saturday.

The youth, Monte Earl Darling, of 2607 Sonoma Ave., was released on his own recognizance and given a choice of joining the Army by Feb. 25 or reappearing in court for sentencing on disturbing the peace and malicious mischief charges.

Darling was arrested with two juvenile companions Thursday night by Redondo police on the complaint of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Forella of 233 Avenue G. They said that the trio came to their house about 9:15 p.m. while their daughter was having a party.

Police said that Darling forced his way into the house, used loud and obscene language, then smashed his fist through a window when he was finally ejected.

Darling said that he went to the party to see one of the female guests with whom he is in love, but who will "have nothing to do" with him.

The other two crashers were released to their parents. The three boys were apprehended a half hour after the incident as they were cruising around the neighborhood. Darling was taken to Family Medical Center for treatment of cuts sustained in the window breaking caper and then booked into Redondo city jail. He offered to make restitution for the window.

### Minus Brakes, Car Goes Wild In Redondo

A brake failure caused the car of a 21-year-old Torrance woman to a) smash in the rear of another car; b) careen across a sidewalk crowded with pedestrians and c) crash into the Surprise Store in Redondo Beach Friday.

Driver of the vehicle, Mrs. Leona C. Snyder, of 5107 Torrance Blvd., said that her brakes failed as she drove up behind A. Porter, 33, of 18310 Burin Ave., El Nido. Mrs. Porter was taken to Harbor General Hospital with a head injury.

The Porter car had stopped at a crosswalk across Pacific Ave. at Garnet St. The Snyder car struck it, veered off, then careened down the street across the sidewalk and into the front of the store at 110 S. Pacific Ave.

### Merchants Agree To Extend Dollar Days to Monday

Dollar Days in Torrance have been extended through tomorrow, according to Dale Isenberg, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who conducted a telephone survey of local merchants yesterday and found them willing to continue the bargain-fest.

Local merchants told Isenberg that any and all bargains that were on sale in their stores during the first two days of Dollar Days will remain at the same low prices tomorrow.



**FAIR PLANNERS** . . . Discussing plans for the Chamber of Commerce Community Fair this fall are (left to right) Bob Haggard, Paul Diamond, J. H. Paget, and Dean Sears. The fair will be held here Aug. 11 to 15.

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### Basin Group Will, Woolley To Consider Pumping Plan At GOP Meet

The West Basin Stipulation Committee will meet this week to consider a revised agreement to reduce pumping of water in the district so that the barrier against salt water intrusion might be strengthened.

It has been estimated that an agreement can be completed, signed and made effective in 90 to 90 days and that it can be put into operation 90 days after that.

The committee will report on details of its work at the Feb. 25 meeting of the West Basin Water Association, according to Carl Fossette, Basin spokesman.

Thus far, \$30,499 has been received to operate the barrier until July 1, when Water Conservation Zone II, a Los Angeles County Flood Control District project, goes into effect. It is estimated that \$45,000 is needed to continue the barrier until July 1.

### Willd, Woolley Share Stage At GOP Meet

Willd and Woolley, Torrance attorneys, will share the spotlight at the annual meeting of the 68th District Republican Assembly, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Fireside Cafe, Sixth and Gaffey, San Pedro.

John Willd, who has been endorsed by the Republican fact-finding committee as a candidate for the California State Assembly from the 68th District, will be speaker of the evening and Boris Woolley has been nominated by the nominating committee as president of the group.

Also nominated for office are Mrs. Virginia E. Selover, second vice-president; Al Gianni, third vice-president; Margaret Woolley, secretary; and Dr. Alden Smith, treasurer.

The steak dinner will cost \$3 per plate and reservations should be made prior to Feb. 17. Reservations can be made by calling TE 2-2684, FA 5489 or RTE 3-1365.

### Finch Appointed To Committee On County Needs

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Haber yesterday announced the appointment of Robert H. Finch, prominent Inglewood attorney, to the "Committee on Financing County Building Needs" for an indefinite period.

Finch, a leader in Republican politics in this area for several years, is a partner in the law firm, Finch, Bell, Duitman and Jekel; a member of the Board of Trustees of Palms Verdés College, and has been active in many Inglewood community affairs.

The duties of the committee are to make recommendations in conjunction with Arthur J. Will, Chief Administrator of Los Angeles County, on the space requirements of county departments and institutions, and the methods of financing and acquiring the necessary quarters.

The recently organized committee, headed by Claborn A. Saint, consists of two members from each of the five supervisorial districts. Members are appointed by individual supervisors. Others on the committee are James L. Beebe, Sam Camp-house, Martin L. Christensen, Ruben F. Ingold, William Moseley Jones, Carl H. Lorbeer, A. W. Ross, and Aldea C. Walte.

### Local Mounted Unit Third in Desert Parade

Torrance's Mounted Police added another ribbon to its trophy case as the result of its third-place showing in the Palm Springs parade last week-end. It was learned here this week.

Twenty-one of the troop's 23 members went to the desert resort for the two-day celebration and placed third in the parade of 104 entries. More than 600 horses were in the competition, according to Police Sgt. D. C. Cook.

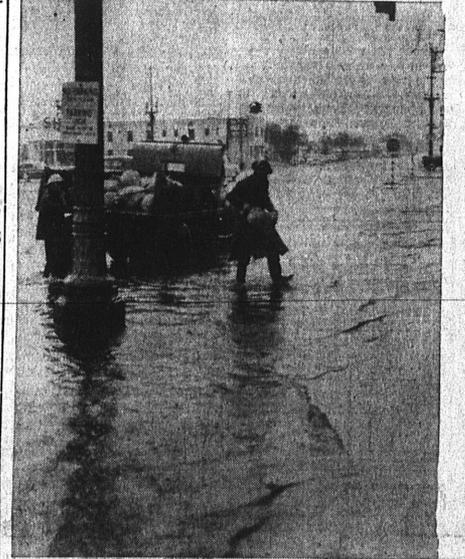
The troop, with 23 members, needs only two more to make it a complete unit, Sergeant Cook reports.

### Need Volunteers For Valentine's Day Heart Drive

Dr. Philip M. Halloran, Torrance chairman of the Heart Fund campaign in Los Angeles county, this week issued a call for volunteers to help in the door-to-door drive to be conducted here today, Valentine's Day.

Feb. 14 has been designated as Heart Sunday and volunteers will attempt to reach the goal of \$650,000 set for '54 in L.A. county. Anyone who would like to help in the central Torrance area is asked to call Dr. Halloran, FA 8-7945, or Mrs. Eugene Cook, FA 8-2265. In Welteria, residents should call Mrs. Edward G. Powell, the local chairman there, at FRontier 5-2475.

North Torrance chairman is Mrs. Charles Even, MN 9-3528 and in Seaside Ranchos, volunteers should call Mrs. William L. Steinwachs, FRontier 5-1021.



**FLOOD FIGHTERS** . . . City crews unload sandbags near Five-Points intersection downtown in effort to keep water out of stores around the intersection.

### Many Parts of City Flooded in Downpour

City crews were fighting an "all fronts" battle yesterday in an almost futile effort to keep ahead of the downpour of rain as areas from the northeast section of the city to the southwest became flooded.

Heaviest hit was the 168th and Falda Ave. area in North Torrance and the bowl in Hollywood Riviera which has its bottom along the 100 block on Paseo de Gracia. In both areas, city crews battled to keep water out of homes.

Between 20 and 30 families were preparing to leave their homes yesterday evening near the 168th and Falda Ave. intersection as the water threatened to inundate the homes.

Downtown, the five-points intersection at Cabrillo, Carson, and Cravens was flooded again, and sandbags were brought into play to keep water out of stores.

By 3:30 yesterday afternoon, Torrance had received 1.55 inches of rain during the storm. It brought the year's total to 6.49 inches. Last year at this time the city had received 5.87 inches and received 7.87 inches all year. (Fire Department figures are kept from June to June).

City and county crews closed off Western Ave. yesterday afternoon after 3 o'clock when water began undermining the roadway. Traffic was diverted at 174th St. and at 182nd St.

All of 168th St. between Ardath and Arlington was closed and traffic was moving slowly through 180th and Crenshaw, Hawthorne Ave., and 190th St., Hawthorne north of Pacific Coast Hwy., Arlington Ave. near 231st St.

City pumps were set up in the Paseo de Gracia lake and the water pumped into El Retiro Park area in an effort to keep it out of homes in the area.

The Dominguez Channel which runs through North Torrance was running at capacity during the heavy rains yesterday and was blamed for the closing of Western Ave.

Reports that a water main had apparently broken in the flooded intersection of 168th and Falda yesterday afternoon were investigated by police, who waded into the area and determined that it was just rainwater gushing up in the intersection.

Torrance merchants, who had been planning for weeks for their Dollar Day sales, looked through steamy windows at vacant streets and decided to stretch the sale on into Monday to give shoppers a whack at the bargains in the stores.